Remarks

In response to the Advisory Action mailed April 4, 2006 and the Final Office Action mailed January 23, 2006, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of the following remarks. In the present application, claims 1, 16, and 32 have been amended and claims 12-15, 17-31 and 35-43 have been canceled. Claims 1 and 32 have been amended to correct typographical errors, to clarify that the "interior network element" is located within a network, and to clarify that the "rolling time period" comprises a previous finite time period wherein the previous finite time period is selected from the group consisting of a plurality of hours, a plurality of days, a week, and a month. Claim 1 has also been amended to incorporate features found in canceled claims 12-15. Support for these amendments may be found in Fig. 1, paragraphs 0013-0014, paragraph 0017, and paragraph 0026 in the Specification. No new matter has been added.

In the Office Action, claims 1 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Claims 1-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Leong et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,996,010, hereinafter "Leong").

Applicants' Statement of the Substance of the Interview

A brief telephonic interview between Applicants' representative Alton Hornsby, III (Registration No. 47,299) and the Examiner was held on March 21, 2006 to discuss independent claims 1 and 32 in view of the cited reference Leong. In the interview, a discussion was held with respect to the phrases "interior network element" and "rolling time period" appearing in the aforementioned claims and rejected by the Examiner as being indefinite under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. With respect to the phrase "rolling time period," the Examiner indicated that a clarification of this term in the claims was necessary to address the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph and might also distinguish claims 1 and 32 over Leong.

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Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §112

In the Office Action, independent claims 1 and 32 are rejected as being indefinite based on the phrases "interior network element" and "rolling time period." As noted above in the section entitled "Amendments to the Claims," claims 1 and 32 have been amended to clarify that an "interior network element" is located within a network and that a "rolling time period" comprises a previous finite time period wherein the previous finite time period is selected from the group consisting of a plurality of hours, a plurality of days, a week, and a month. Based on the aforementioned amendments, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 32 are now definite and the rejection of claims 1 and 32 should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-43 are rejected as being anticipated by Leong. As noted above, claims 12-15, 17-31, and 35-43 have been canceled. The rejection of the remaining claims is respectfully traversed.

Amended independent claim 1 specifies a system for network element fault information processing. The system includes an interior network element; an edge switch coupled to the interior network element, the interior network element located within a network, wherein the edge switch is a first point of access to the network for communication by a customer; a trap log resident in the edge switch, wherein the trap log sends an alarm to a management station to alert for specified network events; a first communications link coupled to the interior network element, the first communications link to carry communications to and from a customer via the edge switch; a network management server; and a computer, the computer coupled to the network element, the computer including a processor, another trap log and a memory, the memory storing a plurality of instructions to be executed by the processor, the plurality of

instructions including instructions to receive a network element identifier from a user, the network element identifier corresponding to the network element, wherein the network element is a switch, the switch coupled to the network management server, the network management server including network element fault information, and wherein the communications link includes one or more communications circuits; receive a network element fault information processing instruction; receive the network element fault information from at least the alarms from the trap log and the another trap log; process the network element fault information for display to the user based at least in part on the received network element fault information processing instruction, wherein the instructions to process the network element fault information include instructions to summarize the identified network element fault information corresponding to a plurality of network element faults, the plurality of network element faults comprising transitions to down state, transitions to up state, and frame errors; and store the network element fault information into a network fault file wherein the network element fault file contains network element fault information collected over a rolling time period, wherein the rolling time period comprises a previous finite time period wherein the previous finite time period is selected from the group consisting of a plurality of hours, a plurality of days, a week, and a month.

It is respectfully submitted that Leong fails to teach each and every feature specified in amended independent claim 1. For example, Leong fails to teach that instructions to process network element fault information include instructions to summarize the identified network element fault information corresponding to a plurality of network element faults, the plurality of network element faults comprising transitions to down state, transitions to up state, and frame errors. Instead, Leong discloses the use of "GET" instructions to allow a browser to display an

instantaneous measurement or value of a certain network management parameter, identified by a Management Information Base ("MIB") object (e.g., a "GOOD FRAMES" object for indicating the number of uncorrupted frames being received at a network device). See column 14, lines 43-64. Leong, however, fails to teach instructions to summarize network element fault information which includes transitions to down state, transitions to up state, and frame errors as specified in amended independent claim 1.

Moreover, Leong also fails to teach that network element fault information is collected over a rolling time period, wherein the rolling time period comprises a previous finite time period wherein the previous finite time period is selected from the group consisting of a plurality of hours, a plurality of days, a week, and a month. Instead, Leong discloses periodically transmitting requests to an agent to provide a network manager viewing a browser with a continual update of a monitored parameter or "MIB" object. See Column 14, lines 43-64. Leong fails to teach a "rolling time period" because the disclosed method specifies that the requests for updates of a monitored parameter or MIB object are periodically transmitted. Thus, the use of "continuous" in Leong refers to the sending of repeated periodic requests for instantaneous measurements or values of network parameters (see Col. 14, lines 1-7 discussing that the transmission of numerous request messages involves numerous iterations of steps 208-212 in Fig. 14). Thus, while Leong discloses sending numerous requests for instantaneous (i.e., immediate) network parameter values over a number of periods, amended independent claim 1 specifies collecting network element fault information over a single previous finite time period selected from the group consisting of a plurality of hours, a plurality of days, a week, and a month. Claims 2-11 and 16 depend from amended independent claim 1, and are thus allowable for at least the same reasons. Amended independent claim 32 recites similar features as amended

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independent claim 1 and thus is also allowable for at least the same reasons. Claims 33-34 depend from amended independent claim 32, and are thus allowable for at least the same reasons. Therefore, the rejections of claims 2-11, 16, and 32-34 should also be withdrawn.
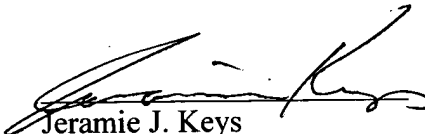
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is now in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to call the Applicants' attorney at the number listed below.

No fees are believed due beyond the fee for continued examination. However, please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3025

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 24, 2006

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